

thing so unquestionably her own special field as nursing. I do not limit this statement to men only, but will say that physicians, be they men or women, cannot teach nursing, any more than nurses can teach medicine. Medicine and nursing are not the same; and however much we may learn from the physician about disease and its treatment, the whole field of nursing—as nursing is realized by the *patient* (the centre of the question)—is unknown to him. I agree that he can criticise nursing intelligently, but he cannot show how it ought to be done or do it himself, except in rare instances.

Florence Nightingale, who said everything that is fundamental and true, repeated this fact continually, and the experience of every good nurse ratifies it.

We need, then, to recognize those qualities and characteristics in our work which are superior to what men can teach us, and to hold firmly to them, refusing to give them up, and most unremittingly should we resist all attempts to take our right of teaching our own work out of our hands, putting nurses out of their true relation to their own calling, and bringing up a set of imperfect imitators of pseudo-scientific men, mere satellites of the medical profession, who will be neither doctor nor nurse.

I am, dear Editor, yours sincerely,

L. L. DOCK.

DEAR EDITOR: Having enjoyed the privilege of six delightfully interesting weeks at the Summer School in Philanthropic Work in New York, I want all nurses to know of this opportunity open to almost all of them.

The school is conducted by the Charity Organization Society of New York City, and the meetings are held in the library of the United Charities Building, 105 East Twenty-second Street, every weekday morning for six weeks in June and July.

Pupils are eligible to the school who have graduated from a college or university, or who have had one year's practical experience in some philanthropic work. A registration fee of ten dollars is required.

The whole expense for the six weeks, including board, can be covered with seventy-five dollars.

The object of the directors of the school is to give the members of the class a broad view of the existing charities of New York, allow them to listen to and become acquainted with some of the best practical workers in the different cities of the United States, and stimulate them with a desire for future study and investigation along the lines of their own particular work.

In order to do this, each pupil at the beginning of the course was given a subject, which he was to investigate particularly and upon which he was to write a report. This in itself necessitated visits to the institutions in New York connected with the subject, acquaintance with the managers, and a correspondence with like institutions in other cities.

The instructors were men and women who are actually leading and doing the practical work in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, and Buffalo. Each one of them spoke from the depth of his own experience, and with a hopefulness and enthusiasm that could not but awaken a like feeling in the listeners.

In addition to the morning lectures, the school was taken to the various public institutions of New York,—almshouse, workhouse, jail, reformatories, va-

cation schools, floating hospital, etc.,—and after each visit the workings of the place were discussed, the good and bad points shown, and comparisons made between these institutions and like ones in the home cities of the members of the class.

The class this year numbered thirty-four. The members came from all parts of the country. All were thoroughly interested men and women, many of them practical workers of some experience themselves. The opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with them was a privilege in itself.

Remembering how often in hospital work the question came up as to how to advise this patient or that patient as to what he should do to better his home conditions, how his motherless children should be best cared for, what he should do himself until he was able to work, and the numberless other questions which the friendly relationship of the nurse makes it possible for the patient to ask, and realizing as never before the intimate relationship of medical to all other charities, I feel that a nurse who is doing either hospital or district work could not do better than take this six-weeks' course.

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DEAR EDITOR: One of my inseparables on private duty is the little ice-pick which I carry about with me, and which is such a convenience I should not know what to do without it. It is a small, sharp steel pick, just two inches long, and with a small, round nickel head. It comes in a little paper box marked "Old Doctor's System," twenty-five cents. The largest blocks of ice can be dismembered with it without noise, and for chipping ice for ice-bags, etc., laid on a soft cloth, the process of breaking up the ice is quite noiseless. I carry it with me when specialling private patients in hospital, as one does not always find it even in well-equipped hospitals, and the sound of ice being pounded or cracked with a large pick is most annoying and unnecessary, especially at night.

"SPECIAL NURSE."

ANOTHER nurse writes: "Some time ago I learned a recipe for a patients' bath which I have found universally most acceptable to the sick one. Although a simple thing, I have never met another nurse who had learned it, and have given the recipe to many. As it conduces greatly to the pleasure and refreshment of the invalid, especially the chronic and incurable invalid, I thought it might be useful if I sent it to THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING.

"To a basinful of warm or tepid water add a large handful of salt, coarse salt if it is obtainable, making a strong brine. Then add about a drachm each of aromatic spirits of ammonia and of spirits of camphor. The quantity, however, of these drugs may be increased or diminished according to the preference of the patient. An ounce of alcohol or some bay-rum may be added. This makes a mixture deliciously refreshing, tonic, and stimulating to the skin, and sedative in its general effects. My patients have always liked this so much for their sponge-bath that I hope some other nurses may find it helpful."